United Nations S/2003/995

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 October 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 14 October 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 15 July 2003, the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) submitted a work programme for the eighth 90-day period (S/2003/710). Annexed hereto is the Committee's work programme for the ninth 90-day period which covers the months from October to December 2003 (see annex).

The Committee will continue to work with States on verifying the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), operating on the principles of cooperation, transparency and equal treatment. The Committee's main objectives will continue to be maintaining and strengthening the consensus within the international community of the importance of combating terrorism, with particular emphasis on establishing practical measures designed to increase the means available to States to combat terrorism; helping to identify the problems faced by States in implementing resolution 1373 and attempting to find solutions to them; and contributing to the process of increasing the number of States that are parties to the international conventions and protocols relating to counter-terrorism. All of these tasks contribute to the Committee's mandate, as set out by paragraph 6 of the resolution, to monitor its implementation.

In order to attain those general objectives, the Committee will continue its work in the areas of technical assistance and cooperation with international organizations in accordance with the decisions adopted within the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the support it has received from Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations, and pays tribute to the contribution of its team of experts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant
to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-55757 (E) 141003

Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (1 October-31 December 2003)

1. The present document sets out the work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for its ninth 90-day period, from 1 October to 31 December 2003. This work programme updates that submitted for the eighth 90-day period (S/2003/710).

Summary

2. The Committee will:

(a) By 31 October:

(i) Continue to circulate the matrix on a monthly basis, with a view to identifying assistance needs and offers;

(ii) Prepare a follow-up programme for activities to take place in the field of cooperation with international organizations following the results of the meeting on 7 October in Washington, D.C., convened by the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States;

(iii) Continue to update the Counter-Terrorism Committee web site;

(iv) The Chairman will write to the Security Council with a list of States late in submitting their reports;

(v) Complete the review of 30 further reports;

(b) By 30 November:

(i) Complete the review of 25 further reports;

(ii) The Chairman, by 15 November, will submit a report on the problems encountered by States and the Committee itself in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001);

(c) By 31 December:

Complete the review of 15 further reports.

1. Implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

3. The Committee and its subcommittees will continue to review the reports submitted by States pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

4. By 30 September 2003, the Committee had received 419 reports from States and others. They include first reports from 191 Member States and 5 from others, 150 second reports from Member States and 2 from others, and 71 third reports from Member States. As indicated earlier, all States have submitted their first reports.

5. Nevertheless, it should also be noted that 48 States have missed the deadlines for submission of their respective reports. The Committee, through its vice-

chairpersons, has begun to contact the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of those States to address the reasons for the delay in order to be able to resolve them through identifying any problems and possible sources of technical assistance that will allow those States to comply fully with the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee urges all States that have not submitted their reports on time to submit them as soon as possible in fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee remains ready to work with them to find a way to progress towards the common objective of combating terrorism in the terms established by resolution 1373 (2001). The Chairman of the Committee, by 31 October, will write to the Security Council with the list of States late in the submission of their reports. The list will include the States (if any) that have contacted the Committee and those that have asked for assistance.

6. In accordance with resolution 1456 (2003), the Committee will continue to report regularly on progress made by States regarding their obligation to report to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

7. Bearing in mind the call for all States to become parties as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism contained in paragraph 3 (d) of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and paragraph 2 (a) of Security Council resolution 1465 (2003), the Committee will remain committed to ensuring that the largest possible number of States become party to the 12 pertinent international conventions and protocols and incorporate that important body of international law into their domestic legislation. The Committee is therefore studying the possibility of taking further steps with those countries with the lowest level of participation to determine the causes and, if necessary and at the request of the States concerned, to seek the appropriate technical assistance to enable them to become parties.

II. Work of the Committee

8. In previous work programmes, the Committee has divided its work into three stages: A — focusing on legislation; B — emphasizing the strengthening of States' executive machinery; and C — establishing and reinforcing cooperation mechanisms at different levels. The Committee has approved a working document entitled "Criteria for the preparation of draft letters to States beyond stage A" for the purpose of ensuring consistency and equal treatment in the analysis of the reports submitted by States while providing balance in the attention required by those which are at stages A and B respectively.

The present document authorizes the Committee experts, in consultation with the subcommittees, to assume a more active role in their contacts with States that are still in stage A by establishing or strengthening contacts with their counterparts in international and State organizations both at the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and in their respective capitals.

Regarding the criteria for deciding that a State has reached stage B, it was agreed that no State should move to that stage until the Committee had no further comments or questions on the prior stage, while allowing some room for discretion for those on which, in the view of the Committee, only one or two questions from stage A remained pending.

Out of the multitude of aspects included in stage B, it was agreed that the Committee would decide on a case-by-case basis which questions would receive priority attention.

9. While pursuing a case-by-case approach in monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), the Committee will bear in mind all international best practices, codes and standards that are relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and will continue to strengthen its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations working in this area.

III. Technical assistance

10. The provision of technical assistance to countries in need will remain one of the Committee's priorities. The Chairman, at the request of various delegations of the Committee, is working on an analysis of the means necessary to ensure that technical assistance receives the appropriate attention from the Committee and the Security Council. In order for the Committee to play a more dynamic role in the area of assistance, the current working methods of its experts may need to be reviewed.

11. The Committee has developed the Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance, which can be consulted on its web site http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1373/ctc_da/index.html. The Directory is designed to be a source of information on counter-terrorism-related best practices, model laws and available assistance programmes. The Committee encourages all States seeking assistance or guidance in the matters covered by resolution 1373 (2001) to use this online information tool.

12. The Committee and its experts are ready, wherever possible, to facilitate the provision of assistance programmes to States in order to further the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

IV. Transparency in the work of the Committee

13. Transparency will continue to be a hallmark of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

14. The Committee will continue to provide information on its activities on a regular basis, including briefings of interested delegations by the Chairman. The previous briefing took place on 9 October.

15. The Committee has an informative web site (http://www.un.org/sc/ctc) that has become an essential source of information on all aspects of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). While extensive work has been done in updating and redesigning the web site, it is not yet available in all United Nations languages. The Committee and its Chairman will continue to work with the Secretariat to ensure that its web site is fully operative in all United Nations languages.

16. The Committee has updated its web site as a source of detailed information on all issues related to resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee will continue to offer all regional and subregional organizations the opportunity to submit information on their activities and action plans in order to distribute them more widely among States that need assistance. The Committee also encourages organizations to continue to submit information on international best practices, codes and standards relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and on any modes of

assistance and guidance in applying and implementing those best practices, codes and standards.

17. The Chairman and the Committee's experts will continue to maintain close relations with organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on aspects relevant to international counter-terrorism efforts, within the scope of the mandate contained in resolution 1373 (2001).

18. States are encouraged to make direct contact with the subcommittee or experts to seek any clarification on the issues covered in their correspondence with the Committee or on any other issue (tel.: 1-212-963-3520 or 1-212-457-1886; fax: 1-212-963-7878; e-mail: ctc@un.org).

V. Cooperation between the Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations

19. The Committee has continued to expand its contacts and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations as outlined in the action plan agreed following the special meeting of the Committee held on 6 March 2003. The Committee will continue to encourage and participate in meetings between international, regional and subregional organizations, such as the most recent one which took place in Washington, D.C., on 7 October, organized by the Organization of American States. The next follow-up meeting is scheduled for 12 March 2004 in Vienna. The Chairman has continued to send letters to various international organizations suggesting the specific areas where mutually beneficial cooperation can be established or strengthened. Furthermore, in order to ensure cooperation, experts have been designated to follow up on the activities of each of those organizations.

20. The Chairman and the Committee's experts will continue to establish contacts with organizations outside the United Nations system by attending regional meetings and conferences. They will also intensify contacts with international, regional and subregional organizations to learn about their functions and attitudes in combating terrorism. With a view to strengthening those contacts, the Chairman has held numerous meetings with many of their representatives. As a continuation of this policy, during the period covered by this work programme, the Chairman intends to make at least one trip to meet with some of the regional and subregional organizations headquartered in Europe, as a second stage in the contacts already made in Washington, D.C., with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States and the International Monetary Fund.

VI. Future work of the Committee

21. The Chairman plans to submit to the Committee, for subsequent evaluation by the Security Council, a report on the problems being encountered by States in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) as well as difficulties with the structure and functioning of the Committee itself. The purpose of that report will be to identify the major issues and then to hold a debate on possible measures to be taken, both by the Committee and by the Security Council itself, to ensure that the obligations under resolution 1373 (2001) are met as fully and as rapidly as possible.